

VISIT...

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Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is his or her reason for writing.
- Authors often have more than one purpose for writing. Four common reasons are: to **persuade**, **inform**, **entertain** or **express** a mood or feeling.

Directions Read the paragraph below. Then answer the questions.

One evening the crew noticed phosphorescent spots beneath the ocean surface. Often, different types of plankton would glow this way, but the spots seemed to cover one huge animal. In the morning, they saw the creature—a 60-foot whale shark! The whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean, and its jaws can grow up to four feet wide. Although the shark swam around the Kon-Tiki raft for several hours, it never attacked the raft or the crew.

Smaller sharks, however, made the water dangerous for swimming. While one sailor checked the bottom of the raft, a shark headed straight toward him! The men on board harpooned the shark to save the sailor from a nasty bite. By the end of the trip, the crew knew sharks so well that they could catch them by their tails!

1. What is one of the author's purposes in writing these paragraphs? How do you know?

2. What is another purpose that the author has for writing? How do you know?

3. Might the author have a third purpose for writing? Give some examples to justify your answer. _____

4. Does the author have as a purpose to persuade? How do you know?

5. If you wanted to enhance the author's purpose—to entertain—what else might you write about? _____

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence.
Write the word on the line.

Check the Words You Know

___bow	___cargo
___celestial	___conducted
___dignified	___navigation
___quivered	___stern

1. The crew of the *Kon-Tiki* raft used _____ bodies in the heavens to help guide the vessel.
2. The men stood at the _____, or front of the raft, and looked at the beautiful sunrise.
3. In the midst of the storm that shook the raft, the men _____ in fear, hoping the raft would survive.
4. _____ was a critical function for the engineer of the *Kon-Tiki*.
5. The men stood at the _____, or rear, of the *Kon-Tiki* raft, surveying the supplies sitting on the deck of the boat.
6. Thor Heyerdahl _____ lessons about his plans for the journey so his crew would know what to expect.
7. The _____ aboard the *Kon-Tiki* needed to be lightweight and simple; travel on a raft left little room for extra supplies.
8. Many _____ scientists did not believe it would be possible for *Kon-Tiki* to reach Polynesia.